



REMARKS

I. THE CITED REFERENCES CANNOT SUSTAIN A § 103 REJECTION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

The Examiner rejected the independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly unpatentable over Muller, McCann, and Blgaied. The cited references, however, do not disclose, teach, or suggest essential claim elements of the amendments alone or in combination. These essential claim elements include the network components of slow-path and fast-path routing devices, and using identifiers in the information packets to direct the packets to slow-path routing devices on the network for special processing. By limiting the number of slow-path routing devices on the network, as opposed to each device having both slow-path and fast-path routing capabilities, the overall network performance is improved dramatically.

While not addressed in this submission, it is also believed that the conception dates for the present invention will pre-date the Muller and McCann earliest filing dates. As the amended claims are quite distinguishable from these references, however, there is deemed to be no benefit in swearing behind these references at the present time.

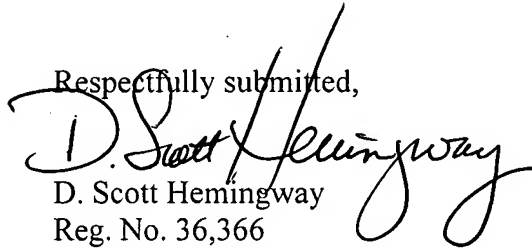
II. CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application because the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections are believed to have been traversed by the present Response. Pending claims 1-20 are believed allowable because the claimed invention is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited reference.

The combined references also fail to teach essential claim elements. Independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 are believed allowable because the rejections are believed traversed. Because the dependent claims add additional limitations to the allowable independent claims, those claims are likewise believed allowable.

It is believed that no additional fees, apart from the RCE filing fees enclosed herewith, are necessary for this filing. If additional fees are required for filing this response, then the appropriate fees should be deducted from D. Scott Hemingway's Deposit Account No. 501,270.

Respectfully submitted,



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